

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:

What do you think of when you think of history? Do you think about Presidents? Battles? People who lived a long time ago? History is all of those things, but it also includes *places* like rivers, forests, homes, and towns. History is made in fields and on boats, and with creative efforts in sports and the arts, as well as by people living their lives every day.

How does land shape history? Have you visited a North Carolina beach? Or mountain? How about a town or city? If so, you have visited history. As long as people have lived in the land we call North Carolina, they have made changes to the environment around them for many reasons—like to clear land for farming, or to build a house or factory. At the same time, the environment has affected how people live on this land as well. For example, if you live in the mountains, you probably don't need to sail a ship, or if you live near the coast, you may choose to make a living by ocean fishing or having a business that tourists want to visit. People and the environment have been changing each other for thousands of years.

How does everyone make history? Isn't that what famous people do? In ways big and small we all make history. Do you like to play soccer? Would you rather dance? Or maybe write a song? Joining a team, performing, writing, creating are all ways you make history.

Did you know that culture is part of history too? The songs we sing, the foods we eat, the sports we play, the stories we write all contribute to what it means to be part of a community. Your communities might include your school, town, county, state or country, but each one is unique, and your actions contribute to them as well.

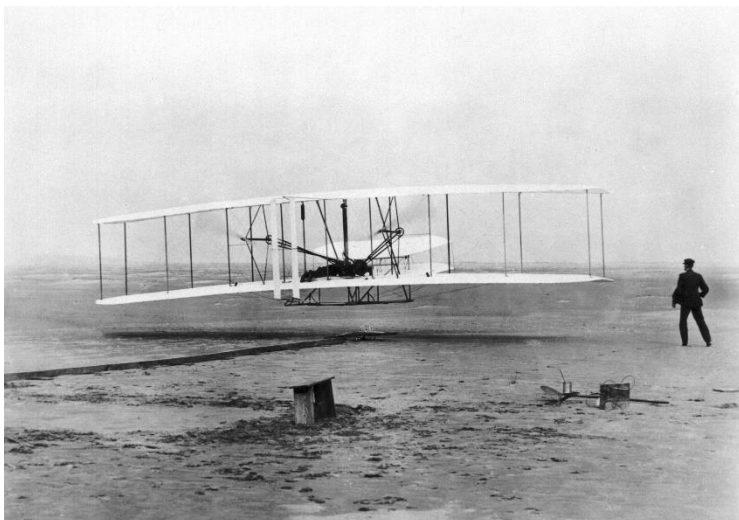
What are some things that make up North Carolina history and culture?

- The first state art museum in the country is located in Raleigh.
- The University of North Carolina was the first public university in the United States to open its doors in 1795.
- Babe Ruth hit his first professional home run in Fayetteville on March 7, 1914.
- Pepsi was created by druggist Caleb Bradham in New Bern, North Carolina in 1898.
- Cheerwine was invented in Salisbury, North Carolina in 1917.
- The first miniature golf course was built in Pinehurst, North Carolina in 1916.
- The first mobile computer center was operated for Douglas Aircraft Corporation in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 27, 1961.
- Washington in Beaufort County was the first town in the United States to be named for President George Washington.
- In 1799, Conrad Reed discovered a 17-pound rock of gold in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, which became the site of America's first gold rush.
- North Carolina established the first state supported symphony orchestra in the nation in 1946.
- Harriet Abigail Morrison Irwin (1828-1897) of Mecklenburg County was the first American woman to receive a patent for architectural innovation.
- In 1942, Thomas Oxendine of Pembroke became the first Native American to graduate from the United States Naval Flight School.
- The Wright brothers had their first successful flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903.
- Biltmore Estate is the nation's largest private residence and was built between 1889-1895.
- Krispy Kreme was founded in 1937 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
- The 20 largest emeralds ever found in the United States were found in North Carolina.

PRIMARY SOURCES:

Primary Sources are created at the time of an event, or later by someone who witness or experienced something first-hand and shared about it later. We often think of primary sources as old letters, diaries, and documents—and that's right! But, there's a lot more to consider. Buildings, shoes, portraits, photographs, objects, and more! are also primary sources and part of our job at the North Carolina Museum of History is to collect those objects and take care of them. Here are a few primary sources and artifacts connecting to this month's lesson.





Photograph of the Wright Brothers first flight, December 17, 1903. Orville Wright is flying the plane; Wilbur stands beside it.



This heart-shaped cookie cutter was made between 1820-1860 by a Moravian tinsmith, G.A. Boozer.

BOOK OF THE MONTH:

Wright Numbers: A North Carolina Number Book. Written by Carol Crane and illustrated by Gary Palmer. "Count your way through the fir-covered mountains of western North Carolina, past rolling foothills, to the giant sand dunes of the eastern coast in *Wright Numbers*. Young reader's imagination will take flight as they discover North Carolina through numbers -- everything from what makes the strawberry unique to what in the world is a Gee Haw Whimmy Diddle. That's worth a couple hundred smiles alone!"

Carol Crane is the author of *T is for Tar Heel: A North Carolina Alphabet* among many other titles. She lives in Holly Springs, North Carolina. Gary Palmer lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is the illustrator of *T is for Tar Heel: A North Carolina Alphabet*.

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VOCABULARY:

1. Pinnacle-a high pointed piece of rock.
2. Moravian-member of a Protestant church. Moravians settled in North Carolina in 1753, creating what would become the city of Winston-Salem.
3. Mustang-free-roaming horse.
4. Scamper-to run with quick, light steps.
5. Whitewater-river water that flows quickly and has a lot of bubbles.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What special places do you like to visit in your community? In North Carolina?
2. What county do you live in?
3. Have you traveled to the beach? The mountains? On a river? What did you like about the visit?
4. Do you have a favorite team in our state? Which is it? What are their school colors?
5. What is your favorite thing about living in North Carolina?

ACTIVITIES:

- **Practice flying paper airplanes, with this easy paper folding activity!**
- **Draw and write about your favorite North Carolina community people, places, and activities.**

